

Remark

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application as amended. Claims 1-3, 8-10, 13, 15, 18-20 and 22-23 have been amended. No claims have been cancelled. Therefore, claims 1-23 are present for examination.

Specification

The disclosure is objected to for asserted typing errors. The reference numbers of paragraph 16 are corrected. In paragraph 17, SAT is typically used to label connection ports for DBS tuners, so the terminology in the specification was intentional. The paragraph has been amended to incorporate the SAT label in the drawing. In paragraph 43, the paragraph is amended to reflect that in the drawing figure, a wireless keyboard is shown, without excluding the possibility of a wired keyboard.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) as including certain reference signs not mentioned in the description. Applicants thank the Examiner for the careful reading of the description and suggest that these may be better stated as objections to the description.

Missing number 22 has been added to paragraph 18 where it belonged. Missing number 83 has been added to paragraph 36 where it belonged. Paragraph 36 has also been amended to reflect that the I/O port 75, alternately referred to as I/O and SIO can be in either form, but is shown as I/O in the drawing figure.

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejection

Kim

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4, 8-10 and 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,334,217 (“Kim”). Kim shows 1st and 2nd tuners 102, 110 on a bus 126. The nature of the bus is not described. A microprocessor 126 is also coupled to the bus. “The microprocessor 118 selects ... a current viewing channel by the first tuner 102.” (Col. 1, lines 61-61) This may tend to suggest that the microprocessor determines the channel that the tuner tunes to. (See also Col. 3, lines 50-60.) It would appear that the Examiner is interpreting the external commands of Claim 1 as key inputs at part 122. However, there is nothing in the reference to suggest that the commands are converted from one protocol to another. There is further nothing in the reference to suggest that the 1st and 2nd tuner use different protocols from each other and from the key input part 122.

As the Examiner has referred to Col. 2, lines 3-12 as converting commands from one protocol to another. However, this section is about the video signals going from carrier wave to IF to baseband. It has nothing to do with commands but with the video signals. Further the audio/video switch does not carry commands but audio and video. In Kim, this is referred to as a data bit stream.

To reduce any possible ambiguity, Claim 1 has been amended. First, the first protocol is identified as being specific to the tuner while the second tuner is identified as being a generalized protocol. As mentioned, above, none of the references show this conversion of protocols.

Second, the external agent is identified as a graphics processor. In Kim, there is only one processor. The Examiner has identified Young as showing an ASIC 210 between the modules and a CPU 200. Young, however, does not identify if this ASIC converts protocols or how commands are sent between the modules and the CPU, if they are. It would appear that the ASIC has more to do with transcoding the video and audio signals than with commands.

As to it being obvious to use Young's ASIC to convert commands between protocols, Applicants respond that it would be obvious to use equipment that is designed to work together. The present application allows flexibility in accommodating equipment that is not originally designed to work together.

The other claims have been similarly amended and, accordingly, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection

Kim and Young

The Examiner has rejected claims 5, 7, 12 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim, U.S. Patent No. 6,334,217 ("Kim") in view of Young, U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0194968 ("Young"). Young has been discussed above. While it shows an ASIC between the module and the CPU, there is nothing to suggest any conversion of protocols.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection

Kim, Godwin and Ishibashi

The Examiner has rejected claims 6, 11 and 16 and 18-23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim in view of Godwin, U.S. Patent No. 6,772,434 (“Godwin”) or Ishibashi, U.S. Patent No. 6,721,832 (“Ishibashi”). Neither additional reference is cited for nor teaches the protocol conversion discussed above. Accordingly, these rejections are believed to be traversed.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections have been overcome by the amendment and remark, and that the claims as amended are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the rejections be withdrawn and the claims as amended be allowed.

Invitation for a Telephone Interview

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

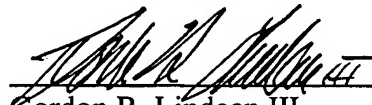
Request for an Extension of Time

Applicant respectfully petitions for an extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) should one be necessary. Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 to cover the necessary fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a) for such an extension.

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
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